

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /092 W
-----038818 220907Z /13

R 211730Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHC 7672
INFO AMEMBASSYALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USMISSION USUN NYK
AMEBASY RABAT
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1415

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MR, SS
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATC: MOROCCAN/MAURITANIA DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETS

REF: RABAT 3367 (NOTAL)

1. MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE MET IN NOUAKCHOTT
JUNE 19-20. LOCAL NEWS STORIES JUNE 20-21 WERE FIRST PUBLIC
AKC KNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXISTENCE MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT SIGNED
IN NOUAKCHOTT ON MAY 13. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CLOSE
OF MEETING WAS BRIEF AND UNIFORMATIVE. IT LISTED DELEGATION
MEMBERS, AND AFFIRMED: SOLIDARITY OF TWO PEOPLES; IMPORTANCE
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OF DEFENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY AND TERRITORY INTEGRITY;
COMMITMENT TO COMBAT ANY AGGRESSION AGAINST INDEPENDENCE OF
EITHER NATION; AND DECLARED ANY ATTACK AGAINST EITHER NATION
WILL BE CONSIDERED AS AN ATTACK AGAINST THE OTHER.

2. COMMENT: (A) DURING PAST 5-6 MONTHS OFFICIAL VISITS
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OF SENIOR AND MID-LEVEL MAURITANIAN

ANDMOROCCAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT (3-4 PER MONTH) AND WELL-PUBLICIZED. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SERIES OF UNANNOUNCED, USUALLY VERY SHORT VISITS REVEALED ONLY BY BRIEF PRESENCE ROYAL PALACE JET AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT. JUNE 19-20 MEETING WHILE WELL PUBLICIZED WAS NOT SORT OF MEDIA EVENT THAT JANUARY OSMAN VISIT WAS. JUST CONCLUDED DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS CLEARLY WORKING NO PR SESSION. (B) SPANISH EMBOFF REPORTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE AGREED TO ESTABLISH JOINT MILITARY COMMAND WHICH WILL CONTROL ALL MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN FORMER SPANISH TERRITORY. THIS COMMAND WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO CLEAR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ADVANCE WITH EITHER RABAT OR NOUAKCHOTT. COMMAND JURISDICTION WILL SPECIFICALLY NOT EXTEND INTO PRE-1975 MOROCCO OR MAURITANIA. (C) EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN TO PRESS GIRM FOR DETAILS OF MILITARY PACT OR OPERATIONAL

DECISIONS TAKEN AT FIRST JOINT DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING. WE BELIEVE RISK OF COMMUNICATING INACCURATE AND INAPPROPRIATE SIGNAL TO GIRM OF US MILITARY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT BY AGGRESSIVE PROBING OUTWIEGHS PROBABLE UTILITY OF INFORMATION WE MIGHT OBTAIN. WE WILL GLEAN WHATEVER WE GRACEFULLY CAN FROM MAURITANIANS AND GRILL OTHER DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS. MEANWHILE, GIVEN LONG-STANDING US POLITICAL AND MILITARY TIES WITH MOROCCO, EMBASSY RABAT CAN MORE EASILY AND NATURALLY OBTAIN DESIRED DETAILS OF JOINT DEFENSE COMMITTEE SESSION FROM MOROCCAN PARTICIPANTS.
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HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATC: MOROCCAN/MAURITANIA DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MR, SS
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